

friend came to the United States under temporary protective status. One of the unintended consequences of the temporary protective status is it didn't foresee that civil war would continue in Liberia for several years, leaving refugees in America stuck in a state of flux.

Currently all Liberian refugees living in the United States under temporary protective status have until October of this year, and then they will be forced to return to Liberia.

The Liberian Refugee Immigration Protection Act of 2007, a bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives KENNEDY, ELLISON and myself, would allow Liberians in the United States on temporary protected status the opportunity to apply for permanent residency status.

This bill addresses an urgent situation faced by Liberian refugees who have legally come to America.

I urge co-sponsorship and passage of H.R. 1941, the Liberian Refugee Immigration Protection Act of 2007.

HONORING NAVAJO CODE TALKERS STEWART CLAH AND CHARLES GUY

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of two Navajo Indians and celebrate the American heroes who passed away last week. Stewart Clah and Charles Guy were members of the elite Navajo Code Talkers. They did not simply rely on their ancestral language to relay critical United States military communications. Rather, the innovative Navajo Code Talkers used their native language to build a succinct and unbreakable code for military communications during World War II.

We will never know exactly how many American lives were saved or how many American military operations were successful because of their ingenuity and sacrifice. But we do know Stewart Clah and Charles Guy and the rest of the Navajo Code Talkers will forever be remembered as critical to the Allied victory during one of the world's darkest hours.

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ARE REPUBLICANS STARTING TO REALIZE THAT INDEFINITELY STAYING THE COURSE IS NOT A STRATEGY?

(Mr. HODES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HODES. Mr. Speaker, it appears that congressional Republicans are finally coming around to the possibility that the war in Iraq cannot go on indefinitely.

This weekend House Republican leader JOHN BOEHNER said if this troop escalation plan is not working by Sep-

tember or October, a plan B would need to be explored. This timid response is a sign that the Republicans see the writing on the wall and are desperate to hedge their bets on a failed policy.

The minority leader's timetable of this fall comes just days after Mr. BOEHNER joined President Bush in abandoning the benchmarks for Iraqi success the President himself established in January. Last week the minority leader and almost every Republican joined the President's call for an open-ended commitment of American troops and tax dollars in Iraq. Now feeling the pressure from the Americans who wisely support benchmarks and timelines, it appears that the Republican leader is backtracking.

The American people and the majority of this Congress will stand firm in supporting our troops and showing leadership for a new course in Iraq. Let's hope the minority leader lifts his head out of the sand, and he and his party and the President join us in moving Iraq in a new direction.

NEW DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS PRODUCING POSITIVE RESULTS FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when the American people entrusted this House to a new Democratic majority, they wanted Congress to deliver tangible results. We are living up to that promise. In the first 100 hours, we passed rules to clean up the way that Congress operates. We implemented the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. We raised the minimum wage to expand economic prosperity to millions who have been left behind for too long, and we cut interest rates in half so college is more affordable to middle-class families in our country.

We also repealed billions of dollars in tax breaks to big oil companies and instead are investing that in alternative fuels and energy-efficient technology. We hope this legislation will begin to wean our Nation off foreign oil because today customers are once again paying record prices at the pump, and that is simply wrong. This legislation is a first step in changing our Nation's energy policy.

We also passed a budget that is actually balanced within the next 5 years, and we did it without raising taxes.

Mr. Speaker, we are living up to our promise to move our Nation in a new and better direction.

URGING SUPPORT OF H.R. 1252, ENERGY PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, in northeast Wisconsin last Tuesday, prices for regular gasoline hit \$3.13 per gallon, 37

cents higher than a month ago, and they have doubled since President Bush took office. And what is worse, the price of gasoline rose even as the price of crude oil fell.

Yet the Federal Trade Commission has yet to investigate or punish anyone for price gouging. This is unacceptable. The FTC has a duty to investigate unfair trade practices.

H.R. 1252, the Emergency Price Gouging Prevention Act, gives the FTC explicit authority to investigate and punish energy price manipulation at each and every stage along the way. It brings greater transparency to oil and gas markets and forces offenders to pay penalties to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1252. It will protect consumers from unreasonable escalations in gasoline prices. There is a better way to do things in America. Let's get started today.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS HAVE TAKEN THE WAR IN A NEW DIRECTION; REPUBLICANS MUST NOW JOIN US

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, congressional Democrats are trying to move the Iraq war in a new direction, but we are not getting much help from the White House or the congressional Republicans. House Democrats have now voted four separate times over the last 3 months to change the course of the war, but every single time House Republicans refused to join us.

For weeks congressional Republicans were saying that the withdrawal timeline proposed would lead to America's defeat in Iraq. But now a week after the President vetoed that bill, Republican leaders are saying that our generals must make the troop surge work by this fall. Republican leaders have now indicated that there should be a timeline for progress in Iraq, stating that, "By the time we get to September or October, Members are going to know how well this is working, and if it isn't, what is plan B?"

Mr. Speaker, it appears that Republicans are slowly but surely coming around to timetables in Iraq. This doesn't mean that they are defeatists, as their own talking points have suggested in the past. It means that they may be turning into realists.

THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, last January when the President was suggesting the need for the escalation of the numbers of troops in Iraq, he also told us that while we would provide the troops under his policy, the Iraqis would provide a series of

benchmarks which they would meet to end the insurgency and to bring their country together politically so that the insurgency can be dampened down or ended.

Now we are told by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that it would be wrong to hold the Iraqi Government, the Malaki government, to those benchmarks because it would take away their flexibility, while President Bush said that if they did not meet these benchmarks in January, they would lose the confidence of the American people.

President Bush had it right. They haven't met the benchmarks. They are not holding up their end of the bargain. The Parliament is not meeting. A third of them are living in London, not in Iraq, and they have lost the confidence of the American people.

How is it that the Secretary of State and the President of the United States can continue to believe that we should continue to send American soldiers to die in Iraq when the Iraqi Government won't meet the benchmarks which were supposed to be the bedrock of this new policy, this new direction, that has turned out to be the same old stay-the-course policy where American soldiers die and the Iraqi Government dithers away day in and day out and not meeting the new policies to bring a unified Iraq together?

It is unacceptable to the American people. It is unacceptable to our soldiers. It is unacceptable to their families. And we ought to end this policy now.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

STUDENT LOAN SUNSHINE ACT

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 890) to establish requirements for lenders and institutions of higher education in order to protect students and other borrowers receiving educational loans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 890

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Student Loan Sunshine Act".

SEC. 2. INSTITUTION AND LENDER REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

Title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"PART E—LENDER AND INSTITUTION REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL LOANS

"SEC. 151. DEFINITIONS.

"In this part:

"(1) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term 'covered institution'—

"(A) means any educational institution that offers a postsecondary educational degree, certificate, or program of study (including any institution of higher education, as such term is defined in section 102) and receives any Federal funding or assistance; and

"(B) includes an agent of the educational institution (including an alumni association, booster club, or other organization directly or indirectly associated with such institution) or employee of such institution.

"(2) EDUCATIONAL LOAN.—The term 'educational loan' (except when used as part of the term 'private educational loan') means—

"(A) any loan made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV; or

"(B) a private educational loan (as defined in paragraph (6)).

"(3) PREFERRED LENDER ARRANGEMENT.—The term 'preferred lender arrangement' means an arrangement or agreement between a lender and a covered institution—

"(A) under which arrangement or agreement a lender provides or otherwise issues educational loans to the students attending the covered institution or the parents of such students; and

"(B) which arrangement or agreement relates to the covered institution recommending, promoting, endorsing, or using the educational loan product of the lender.

"(4) LENDER.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'lender'—

"(i) means a creditor, except that such term shall not include an issuer of credit secured by a dwelling or under an open end credit plan; and

"(ii) includes an agent of a lender.

"(B) INCORPORATION OF TILA DEFINITIONS.—The terms 'creditor', 'dwelling' and 'open end credit plan' have the meanings given such terms in section 103 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1602).

"(5) OFFICER.—The term 'officer' includes a director or trustee of an institution.

"(6) PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL LOAN.—The term 'private educational loan' means a private loan provided by a lender that—

"(A) is not made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV; and

"(B) is issued by a lender expressly for postsecondary educational expenses to a student, or the parent of the student, regardless of whether the loan involves enrollment certification by the educational institution that the student attends.

"(7) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES.—The term 'postsecondary educational expenses' means any of the expenses that are included as part of a student's cost of attendance, as defined under section 472.

"SEC. 152. REQUIREMENTS FOR LENDERS AND INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING IN PREFERRED LENDER ARRANGEMENTS.

"(a) CERTIFICATION BY LENDERS.—In addition to any other disclosure required under Federal law, each lender that participates in one or more preferred lender arrangements shall annually certify to the Secretary that all of the preferred lender arrangements in which it participates is in compliance with the requirements of this Act. Such compliance of such preferred lender arrangement shall be reported on and attested to annually by the auditor of such lender in the audit conducted pursuant to section 428(b)(1)(U)(iii).

"(b) PROVISION OF LOAN INFORMATION.—A lender may not provide a private educational loan to a student attending a covered insti-

tution with which the lender has a preferred lender arrangement, or the parent of such student, until the covered institution has informed the student or parent of their remaining options for borrowing under title IV, including information on any terms and conditions of available loans under such title that are more favorable to the borrower.

"(c) USE OF INSTITUTION NAME.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered institution that has entered into a preferred lender arrangement with a lender regarding private educational loans shall not allow the lender to use the name, emblem, mascot, or logo of the institution, or other words, pictures, or symbols readily identified with the institution, in the marketing of private educational loans to the students attending the institution in any way that implies that the institution endorses the private educational loans offered by the lender.

"(2) APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (1) shall apply to any preferred lender arrangement, or extension of such arrangement, entered into or renewed after the date of enactment of the Student Loan Sunshine Act.

"SEC. 153. INTEREST RATE REPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS AND LENDERS PARTICIPATING IN PREFERRED LENDER ARRANGEMENTS.

"(a) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

"(1) REPORT AND MODEL FORMAT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Student Loan Sunshine Act, the Secretary shall—

"(A) prepare a report on the adequacy of the information provided to students and the parents of such students about educational loans, after consulting with students, representatives of covered institutions (including financial aid administrators, registrars, and business officers), lenders, loan servicers, and guaranty agencies;

"(B) develop and prescribe by regulation a model disclosure form to be used by lenders and covered institutions in carrying out subsections (b) and (c) that—

"(i) will be easy for students and parents to read and understand;

"(ii) will be easily usable by lenders, institutions, guaranty agencies, and loan servicers;

"(iii) will provide students and parents with the relevant information about the terms and conditions for both Federal and private educational loans;

"(iv) is based on the report's findings and developed in consultation with—

"(I) students;

"(II) representatives from institutions of higher education, including financial aid administrators, registrars, business officers, and student affairs officials;

"(III) lenders;

"(IV) loan servicers;

"(V) guaranty agencies; and

"(VI) with respect to the requirements of clause (vi) concerning private educational loans, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;

"(v) provides information on the applicable interest rates and other terms and conditions of the educational loans provided by a lender to students attending the institution, or the parents of such students, disaggregated by each type of educational loans provided to such students or parents by the lender, including—

"(I) the interest rate of the loan;

"(II) any fees associated with the loan;

"(III) the repayment terms available on the loan;

"(IV) the opportunity for deferment or forbearance in repayment of the loan, including whether the loan payments can be deferred if the student is in school;

"(V) any additional terms and conditions applied to the loan, including any benefits